

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 745

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the  
"Tennessee Voter Confidence Act of 2006" and  
issues related thereto.

WHEREAS, numerous examples of electronic voting equipment malfunctioning have  
been documented, including recently; and

WHEREAS, without a voter-verified paper ballot of record, it is impossible for the voter to  
have confidence that his or her vote is counted as intended or to have a valid source document  
for an audit or recount; and

WHEREAS, several states have required a version of voter-verified paper ballot; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation is pending to require the use of such ballots; and

WHEREAS, such a system has been used successfully for years in Hamilton County;  
and

WHEREAS, such a system is less costly than direct recording electronic voting  
machines; and

WHEREAS, Federal Help America Vote Act funds have been allocated to Tennessee for  
upgrading election equipment; and

WHEREAS, if the pending federal legislation becomes law or if Tennessee officials  
subsequently agree that such ballots are needed in order to increase the confidence of voters or  
to provide adequate source documentation for any audit or recount, significant expenditures will  
be needed to replace or upgrade equipment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to perform a

comprehensive analysis of the "Tennessee Voter Confidence Act of 2006," which was filed as Senate Bill 3457 and House Bill 3211, and the issue of voter-verified paper ballots in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers. The speakers shall seek to appoint members who have demonstrated interest in the issue and who will serve actively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state departments and agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that interested and affected groups and associations may be asked to provide information, analyses, and recommendations to the special joint committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member of the committee with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting of the year shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers as the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly no later than March 1, 2007, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.